6.5 crore SC, ST and girl students, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6395 Block Resource Centres and 68352 Cluster Resource Centres and regular evaluation of students.

Reforms in education system

335. SHRI ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed that the country's education system urgently required investment and reforms;

(b) if so, whether a decision has been taken to dub the National Education Plan during the Eleventh Plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the initiatives taken by Government to modernise the education system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In the XIth Plan as approved by the National Development Council, Plan allocation for the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been raised to Rs. 269873 crores as compared to the actual expenditure of about Rs. 58820 crores during Xth Plan which is about 4.5 times increase over the Xth Plan. The XIth Plan envisages the following new initiatives:—

(i) A centrally sponsored for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage (SUCCESS) with the objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing a secondary school within five kilometres of every habitation.

(ii) Rapid up gradation of 15,000 Upper Primary Schools to Secondary Schools and expansion of intake capacity in 44,000 existing Secondary Schools;

(iii) Establishment of 6000 high quality model schools at block level to serve as benchmarks for excellence in secondary schooling. About 3500 of these will be public-funded schools while 2500 would be through public-private partnership;

(iv) Provision for laboratories/libraries and also strengthening of the existing facilities available;

(v) Continuos teacher training;

(vi) Provision for hostels and residential schools for girls; and

(vii) A more liberal approach on the part of State Government on allowing private schools to be set up to meet the large unmet demand for quality education.

Other initiatives for modernising Higher Education include—

(i) 30 new Central Universities (CUs)—16 CUs one each in uncovered States and 14 CUs aiming at World-class Standards;

(ii) Establishment of 370 new degree colleges in districts with Gross Enrolment Ratio less than the national level;

(iii) Strengthening of 6000 colleges and 150 Universities not receiving UGC grant at present;

(iv) Setting up of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University with main campus at Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh;

(v) 8 New ITTs, 20 New IITs and 10 New NITs;

(vi) 3 New IISERs at Mohali, Punjab; Tiruvanthapuram, Kerala; Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh;

(vii) 7 New IIMs including one IIM at Shillong, Meghalaya which has been established;

(viii) 2 New Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs) at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh and Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh;

(ix) Setting up of 1000 (300 in Government Sector, 300 in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode and 400 in Private Sector) new Polytechnics.

Free education upto graduation level

336. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government is considering to make education free upto graduation level in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be adopted;

(c) how far such education would be helpful for providing employment to the youngsters in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002 provides for free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years as a Fundamental Right under Article 21A of the Constitution in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas

†337. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has any plan to open such more schools; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The State-wise number of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.